

MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

Bass Bites

FISHING WEDNESDAYS - NOT WEEKENDS!



JULY 2013

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 27, 2005

EDITOR: TERRY TASSIN

President's Perspective

By Gary Grimes



It was good to see such a great turnout for our July tournament at Bartlett Lake. The weather was very pleasant in the early morning, wonderful cloud cover and even some wind, and it really didn't become hot until the last hour of the tournament day. Was good to see Rick Brown return to the club; he is always good for a laugh or two. The day produced several decent fish, at least when measured by Bartlett standards. Bob Jolly and Dick Kirberg brought the day's largest fish to the scales at just under five pounds - nice catch Bob. Congrats to Team Mason / Reichard for their winning weight of 11.52 lbs. Thanks to all the guys helping at the weigh in, you guys are the best. Looks like Saguaro is continuing to produce really big fish, so I hope to see you all

next month, until then, stay thirsty my friends.

Lake Bartlett

July 17, 2013

By Terry Tassin

A great draw, nice weather (for July) at least up until 10 AM when the wind died off, a knowledgeable partner that did his home work – thanks Gary Grimes - equals a fun day and a decent bag of fish. A little of this and a little of that might best describe the lures that caught fish at this tournament. Dropshot, jigs, cranks, etc, were all put to good use to make this event a fun, fish catching experience. But, how did the money winners find their fish? Read on to find out.

Some of the winning teams did not have their photos taken so you will just have to guess what their fish looked like.

Team Jeff Mason & John Reichard Deliver Bartlett Win

Taking home 1st Place, Team Jeff Mason & John Reichard weighed the winning creel of five bass weighing 11.52 lbs.

Jeff Mason: John and I started out throwing topwater and missed seven of our first ten

bites. John was throwing a buzzbait and I was throwing a hand painted Pop R and a Don lovino Splash It II.



1st Place
John Reichard & Jeff Mason

I pre-fished on Monday with a buddy of mine and we had caught some nice fish on topwater, but the bite was not the same on Wednesday. I went next to a spot by the second ramp where I had consistently caught drop shot fish while pre-

Take A Kid Fishing!



Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Deer Valley Airport Restaurant
702 W. Deer Valley Rd
Phoenix, AZ
1st Wednesday of Each Month 8:00 A.M.

“We Practice Catch and Release”

fishing; no luck there also. Went to another spot back towards the marina and upgraded from 3 1/2 lbs to 5 1/2 lbs for our limit. Ran to several different spots on the main lake without much luck and things were looking pretty dismal until 10:00 AM. We pulled up to a spot across the lake from the boat ramp and caught our big fish of the day - a 2.99 lb'er in 25' of water on a drop shot with a Red Crawler Robo worm. This set-up worked well, so we stayed on the spot and vertically jigged the drop shot and caught three more nice fish in the last 45 minutes of the tournament. We counted ourselves pretty lucky to go from 5 1/2 lbs to 11.52 lbs in the last hour of the tournament; right place, right time. I enjoyed the day fishing with John and look forward to fishing with him again in future MBA tournaments.

John added, "We caught our fish on Buzz Baits, Poppers and drop shot rigs. Early morning was top water and then we went to drop shotting the rest of the day. Jeff caught most of the fish but I was a great netter!"

favorite flats on the main lake where we caught most of our upgrades.

All of our weighed fish came on drop shot worms. I caught all of my better fish on a Red Crawler Robo Worm. Dick caught his drop shot fish on a custom, hand poured, worm which looks similar to Morning Dawn. My first big fish, which was a little over three pounds, was almost in the net when my rod snapped in two pieces. I was able to grab the top section of the rod out of the lake and still control the fish until Dick was able to net it. I have to thank Sean Ballard for turning me on to the 'Owner' brand of drop shot hooks. They really stick the fish and never break loose.

A few minutes after I rigged another drop shot rod I hooked into our largest fish of the day which also ended up as the "Big Fish" (4.38 lbs.) of the tournament. It grabbed on to my Robo Worm and came flying out of the water. After a short battle Dick was able to skillfully net it. Dick and I culled two more times but we

Dick Kirberg & Bob Jolley Weigh a Big One for 2nd Place Despite Leaping Bass and a Broken Rod

In **Second Place** the team of **Dick Kirberg & Bob Jolley** weighed five bass for a total weight of 10.80 lbs. Thanks to Bob's 4.38 lb bass the team also won **1st Place Big Fish** honors.

Bob Jolley: Dick and I started the day in shallow water and threw crank baits and top water lures. Dick caught several bass on his crank bait and I caught a few on a Rico. We had our limit, mostly small fish, in the first hour of the tournament. We moved to a few other shallow areas but couldn't catch any significant upgrades. Dick then took us to one of his

Next Meeting

Our next club general meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 August** starting at 8:00 AM, at **Deer Valley Airport Restaurant** (just one mile north of I-101 at the intersection of 7th Ave & Deer Valley Road). We hope you will come early and have breakfast together.

The next club points tournament will be at **Lake Saguaro** on **21 August 2013**. Club launch headquarters and weigh-in location will be announced. Tournament hours are **Safe Light to 11 AM - Special Summer Hours**.



The Rules By Gary Grimes

ARTICLE 11: PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

NO fishing permitted within 50 yards of another contestant's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with trolling motor up. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor.

NO fishing permitted within any special boundaries defined by the Tournament Director.

NO fishing on any other posted water.

Contestants may not leave a boat to fish or land a fish.

were unable to catch another big one which could have put us into first place.

This is my fifth year in the club but only the first time I have fished with Dick. We had a fun time, it wasn't too hot, we caught around 25 fish and we made a few bucks. What else could you ask for. I hope we don't have to wait another five years before we get paired up again.

Thanks to the weigh-in team who did a fast and efficient job and got us out of the heat quickly!

Team Gary Asmus & Mark Durben Cover the Lake and Win 3rd Place

Team **Asmus & Durben** weighed five bass for 9.43 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Mark Durben: Gary Asmus and I got to fish together for the first time. We listened to Clint Black, Alan Jackson and Bill Engvall music and had a blast. Gary does a great job as a boater in making sure the non boater has water to fish and in asking the non boater if he has particular spots he wants to fish. We started out at the dam end of the lake and ended up past Yellow Cliffs. Gary caught everything on dropshot rigs and everything I caught was on a Berkley's

Green Pumpkin Chigger Craw. We fished mainly off of points and flats.

Team Jeff Mabry & Gary Martlage Drop Shot to 4th Place

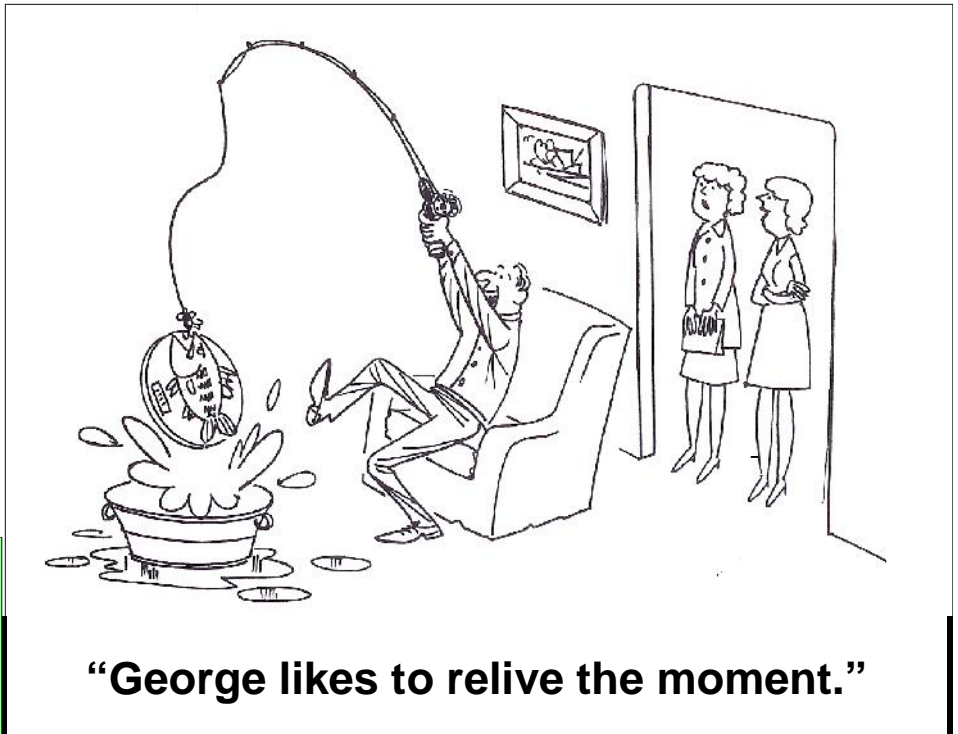
Team **Mabry & Martlage** weighed five bass for 8.73 pounds and took home **Third Place** honors.

Jeff Mabry: I have been fishing Bartlett regularly preparing for my night tournaments, but haven't given the day bite much of a look. So I fished Saturday night and slept on the boat to try and find something to use in the morning while pre-fishing for our club day tournament on Wednesday.

With the lake being so high I have had to try and re-learn it this summer. While pre-fishing I found a flat that held some pretty good fish on and we

were able to get some of them to bite on crank baits. The bite didn't last long on Sunday while pre-fishing, but I hoped we could get 5 fish before it turned off on tournament day. At our club tournament, I think I caught our first fish on my third cast and we quickly put 5 in the boat, but three of the 5 were less than 1 lb. I knew the bite was going to be a bit slow, so I was happy to get 5, but these weren't the fish I had seen on Sunday while pre-fishing. Gary and I marked fish all over the area and tried to get a few more to go on bottom scratching lures, but no luck and we left that area with the first 5 we had caught.

Our next stop wasn't far away and after working it for an hour or so Gary hooked up our biggest fish of the day on a drop shot. It was our only fish from that spot, but it culled one of our smaller fish.



Membership

As of August 23, 2013 the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona consists of 81 active members.

We headed out to the main lake to try an area I had been marking and catching fish frequently. The marks were there, but we could not get them to bite very well. After a while I saw a stack of fish on the graph and dropped a drop shot on top of them; after a few minutes I was able to get another good upgrade in the boat. I broke off another fish on a hook set, but that was it for that spot and we still had one fish under a pound in the live well.

With about an hour to go we headed to the boat ramp area to see if we could get another upgrade. With about 5 minutes left to fish I was able to get one more upgrade on a drop shot and round out our bag.

It was fun fishing with Gary and I hope to get drawn with him again sometime soon.

Gary Senft & John Milkint Make It Happen With 2nd Place Suspended Bass

John Milkint: Fishing with Gary Senft was not only a pleasure but also a lesson on various uses of a drop shot. Gary caught the 3.53 pound 2nd place big bass on the main lake in 100 feet of water with a Salt River Red Crawler Robo worm. Okay, okay, the boat was in 100 feet of water, but the bass was chasing a school of shad and he took the worm at about 25 feet. Gary marked a school of shad and by casting out the drop shot and letting it fall below the shad he was successful in bringing in that big bass.



**2nd Place Big Fish
Gary Senft**

We caught fish most of the day and tried a number of different techniques but the most productive for us was the drop shot rig. We had a limit by 6 AM and proceeded to cull all of the smaller fish during the balance of the morning.

Paul Cormany & Ray Riley Crank Goon Fish Prize

Paul Cormany: I really enjoyed fishing with new member, Ray Riley. You guys will like fishing with him.



**Goon Fish
2.30 lb Crappie-Ray Riley & Paul Cormany**

I caught the goon fish on the second cast of the morning on a Luckycraft crankbait and thought we were off to a great start. It was all downhill from

there as we struggled to find and catch fish. See you all at Saguaro.

Tournament Statistics

Thirty-Nine men fished 6 hours each, bringing 91 keeper bass to the scales for a total weight of 132.37 pounds with a 3.39 pound average total catch per fisherman. The average weight of each fish was 1.45 lbs. All but two fish were released back into the lake after weigh-in to fight again another day.



Treasure Chest By John Milkint, Treasurer

Jeff Mason and John Reichard had a sterling day on Bartlett and finished in 1st place with a weight of 11.52 pounds. They accomplished that without catching either 1st or 2nd place heaviest fish. They will split \$364 in prize money.

Second place and 1st big fish, totaling 10.80 pounds, was worth a total of \$502 to the team of Dick Kirberg and Bob Jolley.

The third place finishers were the team of Gary Asmus and Mark Durben. They had a total weight of 9.43 pounds and split \$182.

Jeff Mabry and Gary Martlage weighed in 8.73 pounds for a 4th place finish and total prize winnings of \$92

The second big fish was weighed in by the team of Gary Senft and John Milkint. That 3.53 pound fish was worth \$152. Were it not for a two

dead fish penalty they would have finished in 4th place.

Paul Cormany and Ray Riley came to the scales with a 2.30 pound Crappie and walked away with the Goon Fish pot of \$190. This was Ray's first time fishing with the club and a great start of a beautiful friendship.



Weighing-In By Jack Hughes Tmx Director

Well the 2013 season is half over and it has been different. For the first time we had to cancel a tournament for snow. Then we fished two tournaments at Apache on succeeding days. We have had to remove Alamo from this year's schedule due to very low water. Most important during a downed economy our membership remained very strong and our quality of fisherman has in my opinion increased.

The following are a few things the board is doing to help that I think most members do not know but I think they should. All of those above happenings were excellent but does not compare to our club's outstanding reputation with Arizona Game and Fish and Tonto National Forest. When the new board took over basically two years ago I never heard from AZG&F or Tonto. Now thanks to the efforts of all members the phone rings often to ask our opinion on a potential new rule or some help

they may need for a specific task. Last week it was the new manager at Bartlett introducing herself and thanking the club for always following our issued permits to the letter. Then she said everyone I talk to at all the Tonto lakes seems to always mention your club first when it comes to clubs they want to work with. She then advised that Bartlett needs a solid plan to increase the quality of fishing. She is currently working on the objective outline for one plan. When she completes the objectives she wants to appoint a committee to come up with recommendations and wanted to know if we would like to participate on the committee to represent tournament fishermen. Of course I answered "yes" Gary Grimes and the board will decide who they will appoint to represent us.

TNF Roosevelt district is also working on a plan and Dwayne Steel is very active in attending the meetings (as a Tonto Basin business owner) and one might say he is very vocal when it comes to making recommendation's for improving fishing at Roosevelt. Dwayne is also pushing the business community to give clubs discounts for fishing Roosevelt. These discounts cover items from room and food discounts to doing whatever they can to make fishermen feel welcome. Dwayne is also leading the effort to introduce Texas strain bass into Roosevelt and clearly points out what a success it was at Apache.

TNF also contacted me to ask if we had any quality pictures to add to their museum in the visitor center and the board approved a plaque of Jeff Mabry's 8.75 pound largemouth caught during our May Apache tournament. This plaque will be hung in the visitor's center this month. Midweek Bass Anglers is the only club as of this writing who supports their museum. While it was a small effort in getting the plaque done it will go a long way in cementing our positive relations with TNF and the business community in Tonto Basin.

Finally, there is now a standard rule for fishing all marinas in TNF which I believe all users of the lakes can live with. I have been advised some individuals and clubs have objected to the 100 foot rule, including being more than a little upset with TNF personnel. They did not write the rule; the National Forest Service wrote it and the Districts have to enforce it. The rule was written because of the damage occurring to marina boats, docks, electrical and sewer lines, as well as injuries to personnel when diving to repair damage. This standardized rule will help eliminate most of the tension between fishermen, boat owners, and marina operators. In one case - Bartlett - it actually gave us more area to fish around the marina than the old rule.

Thanks for all your support during the first half of 2013!

2014 Officer Nominations:

Recommendations for members willing to run for club office for 2014 should be to the Secretary by email or phone call no later than 1 September 2013. Be sure nominees will serve before nominating

2014 Bylaw & Tournament Rule Changes:

All proposed changes should be submitted to the Secretary no later than 1 September 2013 on the club rules change form.

Ponderisms

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Garden Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

Tech Tips

Sunglasses for all occasions

Good sunglasses are valuable fishing tools. In low light they can help you spot obstacles under the water and at the surface when you're running down the lake; and in bright sunlight they can help you see cover or fish. You should consider having pairs of glasses with three different lens colors for different light conditions. At first light, wear the amber or brown lens, which really brings out contrasts. Later in the morning, switch to grey, which is a good all-around choice for most light conditions. When it gets up in the day and the sun is really bright overhead, go to the green lenses. They cut through the reflection on the surface and help you see deeper into the water. Keep glasses with those three lenses in your boat and they will cover any light situation. Another thing that is important is to use the soft cloth packaged with sunglasses to clean them off. Lenses will last a

lot longer without getting scratched up if you do that instead of trying to wipe them off on your shirt or a rag.

Don't wait too long to respool line

If you fish rocks and shoreline cover a lot when practicing for a tournament, on the last day of practice put on fresh line because the old stuff has gotten nicked and abraded. But don't wait until the night before the tournament starts to change the line. Instead, take a break around midday on that last practice day and respool. That way, while you are in actual fishing situations you can get accustomed to the feel of the new line and adjust it as needed before the tournament starts. If you have any problems with the line, such as having too much or too little on the spool of a spinning reel, you can correct them during that last afternoon of practice. You don't want to have to mess with line during the first round

of the tournament and waste precious fishing time.



Photo Scrapbook Lake Bartlett July 17, 2013



Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona - 2013 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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Access Midweek Bass Anglers Internet Web Site at: <http://www.midweekbassaz.com/>

**Welcome to New
Midweek Bass Anglers
Since the Last Newsletter**

Raymond Riley (B/NB)

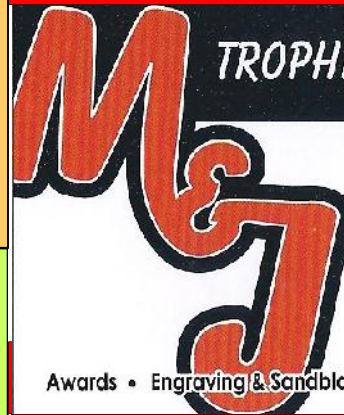
Sound Off

Let us hear from you. The newsletter is your vehicle for communicating and sharing with other members.

Many of you have things to say, opinions to share.

Contact the Editor who would be delighted to hear from you.

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Individuals wishing to purchase a club shirt or cap can **order directly** from our provider - **M & J Trophies & Apparel**, 10802 N. 43rd Ave, Glendale, Arizona. See their ad above.

**Midweek Bass Anglers 2013
Tournament Schedule**

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 16 January | Roosevelt |
| 20 February | Bartlett [Cnxl] |
| 20 March | Havasu |
| 17 April | Alamo |
| 14 May | Apache [Feb resked] |
| 15 May | Apache |
| 19 June | Saguaro |
| 17 July | Bartlett |
| 21 August | Saguaro |
| 18 September | Roosevelt |
| 16 October | Martinez |
| 20 November | Apache |

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday

Born in August

Christian Borucki

George Fuzfa

Jeff Mabry

Dave Nelson

John Reichard

Ralph Skelly

Dwayne Steel

